

CHAPTER 14

RE-TREATING TENTS AND TARPAULINS

14-1. RE-TREATING CANVAS

The canvas used to make tents and tarpaulins is treated with chemicals so that it is fire-resistant, water-repellent, weather-resistant, and mildew-resistant. Exposure and cleaning decrease the chemical protection. Tents and tarpaulins should be re-treated as needed to make them more durable. To re-treat canvas--

- a. Re-treat tarpaulins while they are stretched out flat on the ground. Re-treat tents while they are erected or raised with a hoist. Start at the top of the tent and work down.
- b. Make sure the canvas is dry. Remove dirt, oil, and grease stains.
- c. Obtain an adequate supply of canvas preservative coating, Federal Specification TT-P-595 (NSN 8030-00-281-2346). Stir the paste thoroughly, and then dilute it with an equal amount of dry-cleaning solvent. Add the solvent a little at a time, and stir continuously until all the solvent has been added. Stir the coating again just before it is used.
- d. Apply the coating with a brush or spray gun. (If a spray gun is used, the operator should wear protective clothing, a respirator, and a helmet liner.)
- e. Apply the coating more generously to patches and recently repaired areas.
- f. Let the canvas dry until it is thoroughly dry to the touch.

CAUTION

While re-treating tents and tarpaulins, always apply coatings in a well-ventilated area. Avoid inhalation of solvent fumes and prolonged exposure of skin to cleaning solvent. Wash exposed skin thoroughly. Dry cleaning solvent (Fed. Spec. P-D-680 and P-S-661) is potentially dangerous to personnel and property. Do not use near open flame or excessive heat.

14-2. RE-TREATING SEAMS

Seams on tents and tarpaulins require two re-treatments to prevent rot and leaks. Seams should be re-treated on a hard, flat surface. To re-treat seams on clean, dry canvas--

- a. Dilute the coating and use a 4-inch-wide, stiff paint brush to apply one coat to the outside of every seam.
- b. Coat the stitching thoroughly on webbing attachments and reinforcements.

- c. Allow the first coat to air dry for 4 hours. (This time can be reduced by using warm air.)
- d. When the first coat is dry to the touch, apply a second coat.
- e. Allow seams to dry for at least 24 hours before erecting or repacking the tent or tarpaulin.